

On the Go Newsletter

July 2010

Chair's Corner: A Note from ICLA Chair Sandra Sanchez

Seeking Nominees for Outstanding Latino Educational Leader

The Commission on Latino Affairs is seeking nominees to highlight the contributions of Latinos (including immigrants) to their communities. The first area we would like to highlight is Education. A different area of interest will be highlighted every three months.

If you know of any Latino/Latina who has made significant contributions (those that go beyond the norm) in the area of education to their school, community, city or the state, please submit his/her name to Melissa Esquivel with a short story of the contributions of your nominee.

We will post the candidates on our website so community members will be able to vote for a candidate deserving of such recognition. The profile of the winner will be highlighted in a section of our website for three months.

For more details, please contact Melissa Esquivel at:
melissa.esquivel@iowa.gov.

Community Announcements & Services

- [Iowa Valley Community College District in Marshalltown Helps Community Take the Next Step in Education](#)
- [Affordable Elderly Apartments Available in Des Moines](#)
- [Tarjetas De Crédito: Lo Que Usted Debe Saber](#)
- 2010 Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Children [Essay](#) and [Poster](#) Contest
- Concurso de [Ensayo](#) y de [Cartel](#) para Hijo/as de Trabajadores Agrícolas Migrantes o Temporales 2010

News

- [Supreme Court Injects Reason into Immigration Felony Definition](#)
- [HUD Heightens Efforts Against Housing Discrimination](#)
- [Latinos in the US: Meet Generation 1.5](#)
- [Harkin Says Fremont, Nebraska Immigration Ordinance Will Face Legal Test](#)
- [Movie "Papers" About the Challenges Facing Undocumented Youth to be Shown at Grace United Methodist Church in Des Moines on July 14, 2010](#)

Independent Contractors and Employees: Get Your Classification Right!

Iowa Workforce Development's Misclassification Unit Educates and Enforces

Misclassification of workers as "independent contractors" rather than "employees" is a growing problem in Iowa and across the nation. Iowa employers must report wages to Iowa Workforce Development's Unemployment Division, and to the Iowa Department of Revenue for withholding income taxes. When employers misclassify workers, they avoid paying these taxes. These employers may fail to provide workers compensation coverage to their workers. Also, they may fail to follow wage, contractor registration, or other employment and labor laws. Such employers most likely underbid honest, law-abiding businesses that pay all taxes owed. Employers that misclassify workers could face significant penalties and fines.

The Iowa Legislature provided special funding for extra help to protect workers, law-abiding businesses, and taxpayers. A Misclassification Unit within IWD's UI Division focuses on this issue. The IWD's webpage provides general information, FAQs and contact information for reporting businesses that appear to misclassify workers: <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/misclassification/>. Contact the Misclassification Unit by telephone at (515) 281-3191 or (800) JOB-IOWA (800-562-4692), by email at Misclassification@iwd.iowa.gov, or by regular mail at Misclassification Unit, Iowa Workforce Development, 1000 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319.



Upcoming Community Events

- Making Sense of the Juvenile Justice System, July 10, 8:30AM-5PM
- YMCA of Greater Des Moines Teen Summer Bike Camp, July 12-16
- Latinos Unidos Picnic, July 25, 4-7PM
- Celebrating Diversity Among Young Children: Best Practices for Early Childhood & Primary Classrooms, August 21, 8:30AM-4:15 PM
- Latino Heritage Festival, September 4-5
- 2010 Protecting Our Children Conference, September 8-10
- Iowa Culture and Language Conference, November 1-3
- Different Colors of Violence Conference XI, December 9-10

Defining Roles: Federal vs. State Immigration Authority

Closing the Floodgates and Reasserting the Constitution

From Journal.us News Service

The small town of Fremont, Nebraska, is in the headlines after passing an ordinance that requires that renters apply for an occupancy license, requiring a legal immigration status check, before renting an apartment or home.

Although Fremont, Nebraska, and Arizona are the latest localities to propose measures designed to control and manage immigration, there have been many more attempts over the past seven years to pass similar bills. Like the other efforts before them, there will be rationalizations for their passage and legal challenges to their implementation. Millions of dollars will be spent as these laws are battled in state houses, city halls, and the courts. However, the larger question is will the federal government continue to sit idly by as patchwork legislation proliferates the country, or will it finally assert its role, as defined by the Constitution, and delineate local authority with respect to federal immigration law?

For the complete reading of the article, click [here](#).

Milka Duno Visits Grand View University and Competes in the IndyCar Series Iowa Corn Indy 250

The Iowa Department of Human Rights was proud to present an opportunity for students to meet with IndyCar driver Milka Duno at Grand View University (Viking Theater) in Des Moines on Friday, June 18th at 10AM. Duno spoke with students, community members and fans, participated in a Q&A, and afterwards was available for autographs and pictures.

Milka was in Iowa to compete in the Iowa Corn Indy 250 at the Iowa Speedway on Sunday, June 20. During her warm-up lap on Saturday's qualifying session, Milka was as fast as the ultimate pole winners, but a spin over the bump in turn 2 sent her into the wall and brought an end to what started to look like a top-ten qualifying position. Duno

got out of the car, was transported to the track's medical center, and was quickly released and cleared to drive in Sunday's 250-lap race.

Milka became the first Venezuelan athlete to be inducted into the Latin American International Sports Hall of Fame at their 35th Anniversary Induction Ceremony in January, 2010. In addition to being one of the world's most successful female race car drivers, Milka is also a qualified Naval Engineer with four master's degrees - in Organizational Development, Naval Architecture, Aquaculture and Maritime Business - earning the last three degrees simultaneously.



Six years ago Milka created the "Milka Way" Program, with a mission to inspire children and students to "Aim for the Stars" and achieve academic excellence. Milka has taken this message to children and students at all school levels across the USA and around the world to help inspire and motivate them and help them understand the importance of education.

Thank You to Milka Duno for your visit, and to Grand View University for hosting the event!



L-R: Alex Piedras, Director of Multicultural & Community Outreach of Grand View University; Milka Duno; Melissa Esquivel, Executive Officer of Latino Affairs; Jay Prescott, VP for Student Affairs of Grand View University

Different Colors of Violence

Conference XI SAVE THE DATE

FREE

state-wide conference for teens to identify, prevent, and discuss violence in their schools, homes, relationships and community



Grand View University
Johnson Wellness Center
E-15th & Morton - Des Moines
9:30am—1:30pm

**Thursday,
December 9,
2010**
HIGH school

**Friday,
December 10,
2010**
MIDDLE school

**Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault's
Women of Color
Advisory Network**

For updates, log on to:

www.iowacasa.org



Federal Bureau of Investigations U.S. DOJ-US Attorney Southern District of IA



Minnesota's Franken Introduces Bill to Aid Children of ICE Raids

By: Andy Birkey, The Iowa Independent

U.S. Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., has introduced legislation to ensure the children of undocumented workers caught up in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids are not left abandoned. In a press release about the bill, Franken and fellow sponsor U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl of Wisconsin offered several stories from Minnesota raids where children were left to fend for themselves, at times for a week or more, after their parents were arrested.

"One second-grader in Worthington came home that night to find his two-year old brother alone and his mother and father missing," the senators wrote. "For the next week, the second-grader stayed home to care for his brother while his grandmother traveled to Worthington to meet them."

Iowa has been the site of two of the largest immigration raids in American history: In 2006, ICE raided the Swift & Co. meatpacking plant in Marshalltown. In 2008, the infamous raid on the Agriprocessors plant in Postville took place.

For complete reading of article, click [here](#).

Immigration Reform Benefits American Economy

By: Carlos Rich, Imagine 2050

Why would immigration reform make sense from an economic and labor point of view? Many are saying that immigrants come here and are taking away jobs from "Americans". That's not entirely true for a couple of reasons. First, most jobs that immigrants hold here are low-skilled, hard and dangerous. Second, these jobs are not being filled by Americans regardless of whether there are immigrants willing to take them.

For example, in the meat processing industry, many of the workers are immigrants or refugees. To solve many of the problems involving labor laws and workplace safety violations, wages need to be raised and employers held accountable when they do not comply with safety standards. Perhaps the government money currently used to pay border patrol agents would be more effectively spent on enforcing OSHA and labor requirements.

Employers are not held accountable for unjust labor practices and hazardous working conditions, and when they are prosecuted, they only receive a slap on the wrist. The ramifications of unsafe working conditions are much greater for workers. Often when workers are injured on the job, they are fired and left with high medical bills.

For complete reading of article, click [here](#).

Effective 6/29/2010

DHS will be changing locations for some Public Assistance services in Polk County.

<p>East Office 1740 Garfield Des Moines, IA 50316 Ph. 286-3270 Fax. 286-3395</p> <p>Will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult programs for the aged, blind and disabled clients. • Adult programs for Spanish speaking and Refugee clients. • FIP, Food Assistance, and Family Medicaid for Spanish speaking and Refugee clients. 	<p>Carpenter Office 1900 Carpenter Des Moines, IA 50314 Ph. 286-3555 Fax. 286-2132</p> <p>Will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIP, Food Assistance and Family Medicaid only.
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If your benefits were previously handled by the East office, they will now be handled at the Carpenter office.

If you are aged, blind, disabled, Spanish speaking or a Refugee, your benefits will now be handled at the East office.

Iowa Office of Latino Affairs
Lucas State Building
321 E 12th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Iowa Office of Latino Affairs: On the Go newsletter is sent monthly with up-to-date information on the agency, activities and upcoming events to keep our constituents informed. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

The Office of Latino Affairs is legislatively mandated to promote and advocate for Iowa Latinos.

Dallas County Community Health Needs Assessment Survey

What do **YOU** think about the health of Dallas County? We need your input and it will only take 10 minutes or less by completing an online survey:

Go to www.co.dallas.ia.us and look for the link in the upper left hand corner of the page under "In Focus"

This survey is part of the Community Health Needs Assessment which takes place every 5 years.

A link to the **Spanish** version of the survey is also available:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KR72VM2>



Our mission at Life Connections is to connect to families and form trusting relationships that enhance individual strengths and increase positive community involvement. Our services are designed to assist your entire family, and we accomplish this primarily through our remedial and therapy services.

How Do I Get Started?

Access to services begins with a behavioral health assessment completed by one of our licensed therapists. This therapist discusses the results of the assessment, recommends services, and assists you in finding coordinating services.

Contact Us

For more information or to schedule an assessment or visit, please call, fax, email, or visit us online.

Phone: (515) 327-5195

Toll-Free: (866) 496-4073

Email: contactus@lifeconnections4u.net

Website: www.lifeconnections4u.net

Inclusion: Greater Des Moines Diversity Magazine Now Available

Think Des Moines, Iowa, and diversity don't go together? You haven't experienced today's Des Moines, a thriving urban area that boasts more than a half million people living and working in one of the most metropolitan counties in the Midwest.

As the population of the United States continues to diversify, so does the Des Moines metro area. Our heritage is not limited to the northern European immigrants who settled in Iowa after the Civil War, or the southern and eastern Europeans who opened small businesses and restaurants in Des Moines in the early 1900s. Our ties to the world have expanded greatly in the past 30 years.

Iowa experienced a new influx of foreign-born residents in the wake of the Vietnam War, for example, when Gov. Robert Ray became known as the father of Southeast Asian resettlement in the state. In the mid-1970s he called upon Iowans to open their hearts and their communities to refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos who were escaping from persecution, war and starvation. Today, Iowa and Des Moines boast a sizeable Vietnamese community, thanks to those efforts.

The 1990s marked the beginning of a new immigration wave to the Midwest, as Latinos from Mexico, Central America and beyond sought to build a new life in Central Iowa. Des Moines also became home to refugees from such war-torn regions as Africa and Bosnia. In recent years, Des Moines has provided a growing number of economic opportunities and unmatched quality of life for people with disabilities, young professionals, older workers and others who seek a small-town atmosphere with big-city amenities. Des Moines has embraced this diversity, and we invite you to explore the many ways these unique individuals continue to enrich our community.

To view the magazine online, click [here](#).

Thank You, Latino Affairs AmeriCorps VISTAs Heather Stanley and Carolina Manjarrez

Ladies, you have been a great asset to the Office of Latino Affairs. It has been great working with you. Thanks for your hard work and dedication in serving the Latino community across the state through continuing the efforts of the Iowa Youth Congress, developing the Latino Affairs Directory, assisting with the new development of the Office website, and assisting clients daily.



Please feel free to thank [Heather](#) and [Carolina](#) personally for their service. Their last day is July 16, 2010.